

TRAINING SCHOOLS (IRELAND).

RETURN to an Order of the Honourable The House of Commons,
dated 26 April 1883;—for,

COPY "of CORRESPONDENCE between the Irish Government and the Commissioners of National Education on the subject of TRAINING SCHOOLS in Ireland."

— No. 1. —

The Secretary to the Commissioners of National Education to the
Chief Secretary for Ireland.

(B. O. 9—1—1883.)

Office of National Education, Dublin,
13 January 1883.

Sir,

I AM directed by the Commissioners of National Education to state that they have had under consideration a letter addressed to them by Mr. W. G. Brooke, Honorary Secretary of the Recorder's Committee of the General Synod of the late Established Church, requesting that the Commissioners might be pleased to approve of certain premises situate in Kildare-place as a private boarding-house for teachers in training, in the Marlborough-street School, and to sanction a grant sufficient to defray the cost of living of the pupils as resident.

In accordance with the directions of the Commissioners, I transmit, for the information of His Excellency the Lord Lieutenant, a copy of Mr. Brooke's letter, together with a copy of a Return to an Order of the House of Commons, dated 25th February 1875; and have to request you will be good enough to invite the attention of His Excellency to their letter of the 10th December 1874, included in that Return, to which no reply has since been received; and that you will also inform His Excellency that the scheme which is now submitted by the Recorder's Committee, and which has their approval, formed part of the proposals contained in that letter.

See paragraphs marked pages 10 and 11 of Return.

I have, &c.
(signed) John E. Sheridan, Secretary.

The Right Hon. George Otto Trevelyan, M.P.,
Chief Secretary, Dublin Castle.

Enclosure is No. 1.

Sir,

14, Herbert-street, Dublin,
30 December 1882.

At a meeting of the Recorder's Committee of the General Synod, held this day; present: The Most Rev. Lord Plunkett in the Chair; also present: The Vice Provost of T.C.D., Rev. John W. Stubbs, D.D., A.P., T.A.P., the Hon. the Recorder of Dublin (Chairman of Committee), the Venerable the Archdeacon of Down, Thos. Cooke French, Esq., and W. G. Brooke, Esq., Hon. Sec.; the following communication was unanimously agreed upon in reply to your favour of the 22nd December, in which you state that the Commissioners of National Education in Ireland will be happy to give due consideration to any statement in writing, which the Recorder's Committee of the General Synod (hereinafter called the said Committee) may think proper to submit.

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STATEMENT.

The General Synod of the Church of Ireland at its annual meeting in the April of this year, had before it the subject of the Resolution of the Board of National Education in Ireland, dated the 24th of November 1874, passed on the motion of Provost Jellett, and which, here quoted for convenience, is to the following effect:—

"The Commissioners are of opinion that the system at present in force in the Marlborough-street Training School might advantageously be modified by permitting those who are admitted to the Training School to reside in private boarding-houses, to be approved of by the Commissioners, and to receive a grant sufficient to defray the cost of living of the pupils so resident. These houses might, if desired, be superintended by the clergymen of the same denomination with the resident pupils."

After prolonged deliberation on the matter of the foregoing resolution, and on the position as regards religious instruction of the pupils, members of the Church of Ireland, in connection with the Marlborough-street Training School therein referred to, the Synod on the 22nd of April last passed a resolution in accordance with which the said Committee have been appointed, with instructions to prepare a scheme which the Board of Religious Education of the General Synod, subject to sanction of the Synod, are empowered to carry into effect as regards a residence house for the training of male teachers in connection with the Marlborough-street Training School.

In the course of the inquiries made by the said Committee in discharge of the duties thus devolved upon them by the foregoing resolution, they ascertained that a portion of the premises of the Church of Ireland Training College in Kildare-place, now in the occupation of the said training college, and demised to them by the Kildare-place Society, is no longer required for the purposes of the training college, whilst the same has appeared to said Committee to be in all respects suitable for the purposes of such a boarding-house, as is contemplated in the above cited resolution of the National Board, and superior in that regard to any other place or building which said Committee could hope to find available under existing circumstances.

The said Committee having in this view entered into negotiation with the training college, they have received from the latter a communication, substantially agreeing to the proposals of the said Committee, which is to the following effect:—That accommodation within the premises in Kildare-place should be supplied to the said Committee for fifteen students, including the use of a separate class-room in the evening for the purpose of preparation for the work of the following day, upon the understanding that a certain sum to be subsequently agreed on should be paid in respect of the accommodation so afforded, the students so boarded to be under the supervision of the chaplain of the college, and subject to such rules of discipline as should consist with their duties while in training.

With a view to carrying out the above proposal, we, the said Committee, have now the honour to request that in conformity with their above-cited Resolution of the 24th of November 1874, the Commissioners of National Education may be pleased to approve of the above specified premises as a private boarding-house for teachers in training in the Marlborough-street School, and to sanction "a grant sufficient to defray the cost of living of the pupils so resident," as further provided by said Resolution, it being understood that the regulations for the time being in force in the boarding-house shall be in all respects consistent with the requirements of the Commissioners of National Education.

We have, &c.

Signed on behalf of the Committee,

Frederick R. Falkner,
Chairman of Committee.
William G. Brooke,
Hon. Sec.

The Secretary,
National Board of Education,
Marlborough Street.

N.B.—The Recorder's Committee is constituted as follows:—

The Hon. the Recorder (Chairman).
The Most Rev. Lord Plunkett.
Andrew G. Hart, Vice Provost, T.C.D.
The Venerable the Archdeacon of
Down.
The Rev. John W. Stubbs, D.D.
Rev. Canon Joseph Pesceck, B.D.

Rev. Canon Jas. G. Scott.
Thomas P. Cairns.
Rev. C. K. Irwin, D.D.
Rev. Latham C. Warren.
Thomas Cooke Trench.
William G. Brooke (Hon. Sec.)

— No. 2. —

The Chief Secretary for Ireland to the Secretaries to the Commissioners of National Education.

Gentlemen,

Dublin Castle, 6 March 1883.

I AM directed by the Lord Lieutenant to state, for the information of the Commissioners of National Education, that Her Majesty's Government have given their best consideration to the subjects referred to in Mr. Sheridan's letter of the 13th of January, and to the accompanying documents.

In that letter the Commissioners submitted to His Excellency a proposal emanating from the Committee of the General Synod of the Irish Protestant Church, to take advantage of a resolution passed by the Board of National Education in 1874, to the effect that the system in force in the Marlborough-street Training School might advantageously be modified by permitting the students to reside, at the public expense, in approved boarding-houses, under the superintendence, if so desired, of clergymen of the same religious denomination with the resident pupils.

The Commissioners, at the same time, invited the attention of His Excellency to their letter of the 10th of December 1874, addressed to Sir Michael E. Hicks Beach, containing, *inter alia*, besides the resolution above referred to, the resolution of much greater magnitude, which provided for making grants to non-vested training colleges throughout the country.

And finally, the Commissioners informed His Excellency that they had as yet received no reply to their letter of December 1874 containing these important proposals.

His Excellency directs me at the outset to express his regret that a settlement of the proposals of the Commissioners, affecting as they do, in the highest sense, the educational interests of the people of Ireland, has been so long deferred.

His Excellency, in taking up the consideration of the proposals of the Commissioners, desires me, in the first instance, to advert to the proposal contained in their letter of December 1874 to Sir Michael Hicks Beach for the establishment of non-vested training colleges.

His Excellency understands the designation non-vested to signify a College which, like the English and Scotch Colleges, may be assisted only by grants-in-aid, and which is under local or private management as contra-distinguished from the Marlborough-street College, which belongs to State, and is exclusively a State-supported institution.

His Excellency is aware that the question of the inadequacy of the means of training teachers on principles acceptable to the people of Ireland is a subject which has at different times deeply engaged the attention of former Governments, of the Commissioners of National Education, and of the Royal Commission of 1870. Lord Carlingford (then Mr. Fortescue), in his letter of 19th June 1876 to the Commissioners, drew attention to it, and suggested important measures to remedy the evils which even then were militating against the advancement of good education in the country. Lord Powis's Commission in 1870 made strong representations upon the subject, and Sir Michael Hicks Beach, in November 1874, when adverting to the subject, said "that it would be a source of deep gratification if, with the valuable assistance of the Commissioners of National Education, some practicable and reasonable scheme could be devised to remedy a state of things which is such a serious obstacle to maintaining at the highest standard the education of the Irish People."

When Mr. Fortescue proposed his reforms there were 4,369 untrained teachers in the country. When Sir Michael Hicks Beach drew attention to the subject the number of the untrained teachers had risen to 6,284, and His Excellency, with unqualified regret, observes that, according to the last published account of the Commissioners, the number has now increased to 7,067, or 66 per cent. upon all the certificated teachers receiving grants from the Commissioners.

His Excellency, whilst deeply concerned that such a vast proportion of the teachers are untrained, cannot fail to be struck with the fact shown in the statistics of the same report, that the great preponderance of the untrained, owing doubtless to the objections of the Roman Catholic Church in Ireland to the

the present system of training, is to be found in the ranks of the Roman Catholic teachers.

Of the 7,907 Roman Catholic teachers only 2,142, or about 27 per cent., are trained, whilst of the 2,714 Protestant teachers 1,412, or 52 per cent., are trained.

The Government have had also under consideration the Public Education Estimates of 1882-83 for Great Britain and Ireland, in which it appears that the provisions for the support of Training Colleges are, in—

(a.) England and Wales,	110,500 <i>l.</i>	to support 42 colleges with 3,150 students.
(b.) Scotland - -	27,000 <i>l.</i>	ditto 7 ditto 851 ditto.
(c.) Ireland - -	7,755 <i>l.</i>	ditto 1 ditto 220 ditto.

His Excellency cordially recognises the efforts which the Commissioners have made to improve the standard of instruction in the National Schools. But with 66 per cent. of the teachers untrained at any training college these efforts must have been infinitely less fruitful than they would have been if every school, or nearly every school, had been in charge of a master or mistress skilled in the art of teaching.

In His Excellency's view the importance of instruction in this art cannot be over-rated. It is not sufficient that teachers should possess certain scholastic attainments. They should be trained in the best methods of imparting instruction and of school organisation, so that on the one hand there may be no waste of teaching power, and on the other the children may be most readily and effectively taught the rudiments of an elementary course of instruction. This can only be accomplished by a careful system of training, and His Excellency therefore entirely approves of the proposal to extend the opportunities of training in normal colleges to young persons about to become teachers. With this view the Government are now prepared to encourage and facilitate the establishment of training colleges under local management in Ireland by authorising the Commissioners to make grants towards their maintenance; and as the English scheme of training colleges is the outcome of a vast official experience, the Government are of opinion that it might with advantage be adopted, pure and simple, by the Commissioners of National Education.

As the expenditure upon the support of the proposed training colleges may in the course of some years become a charge of great magnitude, the heads of Her Majesty's Government have impressed upon His Excellency the importance of insisting upon a strong and effective administration of the inspection and control of these institutions.

His Excellency, therefore, desires to be favoured, as soon as may be convenient to the Commissioners, if they approve of the adoption of the English scheme, with a statement of the bye-laws which they may propose for the carrying on of these colleges.

As regards the scheme for modifying the constitution of the Marlborough-street Training Establishment, in which the Committee of the Irish Church Synod is interested, His Excellency desires to know, in view of the concessions of the Government for the establishment of a great system of training colleges on the basis of the English system, whether the proposal to allow the Irish Church students of the Marlborough-street Training College to reside in a private boarding-house, is, in the opinion of the Commissioners, under all the circumstances, one which it is necessary to proceed with. To His Excellency it would appear that as the object of the minor proposal was to secure a denominational domestic life for the students, it would merge naturally into the more comprehensive scheme to which the Government now gives its sanction. But on this proposal His Excellency is prepared to be guided by the opinion of the Commissioners, and if they continue to desire to carry it out he is prepared to give his sanction to it, on the understanding, as His Excellency apprehends the proposal, that the grant to defray the cost of boarding the students in the private boarding-houses shall not exceed that which the Commissioners actually incur for their support in their own establishments, and will thus lead to no disturbance of the estimate for the support of the Marlborough-street Training College in the coming financial year.

As the Estimates for the financial year 1883-4 are now closed by the Lords of Her Majesty's Treasury, the Government must rely for the inauguration of the proposed

proposed training colleges upon the probability of a margin in the Irish Educational Vote, otherwise a Supplementary Estimate at the usual period must be submitted.

His Excellency, in conclusion, desires me to express the opinion of the Government, that the question of providing adequate means for the training of teachers must no longer be considered as one of speculation or expediency, but as one of absolute urgency. The country suffers by every year's delay; and it can scarcely be expected that Parliament will continue without hesitation to vote about three quarters of a million annually towards the support of a system of education, two-thirds of whose teachers have not been professionally instructed in training colleges, to fit them for a proper discharge of their duties.

I am, &c.
(signed) G. O. Trevelyan.

The Secretaries to the Commissioners
of National Education.

— No. 3. —

The Secretary to the Commissioners of National Education to the Chief
Secretary for Ireland.

Office of National Education, Dublin,
2 April 1883.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to inform you that I submitted to the Commissioners of National Education at a special meeting of the Board held on Friday last, the 30th ult., your letter of the 6th March referring to the necessity of extending the facilities for the training of teachers, and suggesting the adoption for Ireland of the English scheme of training colleges, pure and simple.

I am directed by the Commissioners to acquaint you, for the information of His Excellency the Lord Lieutenant, that after careful consideration, they have resolved to act upon His Excellency's suggestion, and to take immediate steps to carry out the English scheme, *mutatis mutandis*, for the support and inspection of such colleges as may be established on this basis.

The Commissioners will lose no time in drawing up, for the government of the new colleges, bye-laws, of which a copy will be forwarded to you for the information of His Excellency.

As you state that His Excellency desires to know, "in view of the concessions of the Government for the establishment of a great system of training colleges on the basis of the English system, whether the proposal to allow the Irish Church students of the Marlborough-street Training College to reside in a private boarding-house, is, in the opinion of the Commissioners, under all the circumstances, one which it is necessary to proceed with," I am instructed to state that the Commissioners consider it desirable to retain this provision.

Further, the Commissioners direct me to convey to His Excellency an expression of their gratification that the great subject of the training of teachers for elementary schools in Ireland is likely, by this very important measure, to be brought to a satisfactory issue; and, in conclusion, to assure His Excellency that in the detailed working of the system of training colleges it will be the earnest purpose of the Commissioners to secure efficiency in the literary and scientific instruction of the students, and above all in a thorough mastery of the art of teaching and of school organisation.

I have, &c.
(signed) W. H. Newell.

The Right Hon. G. O. Trevelyan,
Chief Secretary.

— No. 4. —

The Secretary to the Commissioners of National Education to the Chief Secretary for Ireland.

Office of National Education, Dublin,
12 April 1883.

Sir,

IN accordance with the request contained in your letter of the 6th ultimo, on the subject of training colleges, I am directed by the Commissioners of National Education to transmit, for the information of His Excellency the Lord Lieutenant, three copies of the Conditions for carrying on these institutions, adopted from the English scheme, and of the Supplemental Conditions or Bye Laws, which have received the sanction of the Commissioners in connection with their administration of this most important measure.

I have, &c.
(signed) *W. H. Newell*,
Secretary.

The Right Hon. G. O. Trevelyan, M.P.,
Chief Secretary, Dublin Castle.

Enclosure in No. 4.

TRAINING COLLEGES.

1. A training college is an institution for boarding, lodging, and instructing students who are preparing to become, or are already, certificated teachers in National or other Governmental elementary schools. It is required to include, either on its premises or within a convenient distance, a practising National school in which the students may learn the practical exercise of their profession.

2. No grant is made to a training college unless the Commissioners are satisfied with the premises, management, and staff.

Admission into Training Colleges.

3. The authorities of a college may admit, subject to the approval of the Commissioners—

(a.) Any candidate examined at the July examination who has been pronounced qualified in the programme laid down for third-class teachers.

(b.) Without examination any certificated teacher who has not previously been trained, and who wishes to enter the college for a year's training, in the course prescribed for students of the second year.

4. Such candidates when admitted are termed Queen's Scholars.

5. Before candidates are admitted—

(a.) The medical officer of the college must certify the state of their health to be satisfactory, and that they are free from serious bodily defect or deformity; and

(b.) They must sign a declaration that they intend *bonâ fide* to adopt and follow the profession of teacher in a National school or training college, or in the army or navy, or (in Ireland) in Poor Law schools, certified industrial schools, or certified reformatories.

6. The authorities of each college settle their own terms of admission.

7. Upon proof by the authorities of any college that candidates have not fulfilled the conditions signed by them on admission into the college, the Commissioners will refuse to grant them certificates.

Examination of Students in Training Colleges.

8. An examination of the resident students is held yearly, in the month of July, at each of the training colleges.

9. No student may be presented for examination who is not a Queen's scholar, or has not been resident throughout the whole year. No such student may be left out.

10. The students have a different examination according as they are men or women, or are at the end of a first or second year of residence.

11. The

11. The syllabus for women includes special subjects for the teachers of infants. Candidates who pass in these subjects, after two years' of successful service in infants' schools, receive special mention thereof on their certificates.

12. Students who pass successfully through two years of training receive special mention thereof on their certificates.

Grants to Training Colleges.

13. Grants are placed to the credit of each college of 100*l.* for every master, and of 70 *l.* for every mistress, who, having been trained in such college as a Queen's scholar during two years—

(a.) Shall have been continuously engaged as teacher of a national school for two years subsequently to his or her training, and shall, during such years, have been favourably reported upon by the inspector.

(b.) Is reported by the proper department, in each case, to have completed a like period of good service as an elementary teacher in the army or navy, or (in Ireland) in Poor Law schools, certified industrial schools, or certified reformatories.

14. Teachers who have been trained for one year only may obtain certificates of training; and grants of half the amounts specified in the preceding article, may be placed to the credit of the colleges in which they were trained, provided—

(a.) They are teachers who were admitted under Article 3 (b.)

(b.) Shall have passed successfully a special examination at the end of the year.

(c.) Shall have conducted a National School satisfactorily for two years after leaving the college, or may be reported by the proper department on the same terms as others.

15. The annual grant to each college is paid out of the sums standing to its credit (Articles 13, 14) at the beginning of the year, after the adjustment under Article 16.

Exception:—

This article is not applied to a college for the first five years during which grants are made to it.

16. The grant must not exceed—

(a.) 75 per cent. of the expenditure of the college for the year, approved by the Commissioners, and certified in such manner as the Commissioners may require.

(b.) £. 50 for each male, and 35*l.* for each female, Queen's scholar, in residence for continuous training throughout the year for which it is being paid.

17. The annual grant to each college is paid as follows:

(a.) An instalment of 12*l.* (men), or 8*l.* (women) is paid on 1st November, 1st February, and 1st May, in respect of every Queen's scholar in residence for continuous training throughout the year.

(b.) Part of the instalment of the 1st of May may be suspended, if payment of the full amount then due would cause the limit under Article 16 (a) to be exceeded.

(c.) The balance is adjusted as soon as the college accounts for the year have been closed, audited, and approved by the Commissioners.

18. Grants are made to the practising National schools of training colleges on the same conditions as to other National schools.

Examination for Admission to Training Colleges.

19. An examination of candidates for admission into training colleges is annually held in the first week of July at each college, or such other place as may be approved by the Commissioners.

20. The examination extends to all the subjects in which teachers are examined for third-class certificates.

21. The candidates are selected and admitted to the examination by the authorities of each college, on their own responsibility, subject to no other conditions on the part of the Commissioners than that the candidates—

(a.) Will be more than 18 years of age on the 1st of January next following the date of the examination; or,

(b.) Have successfully completed their engagement as monitors or pupil-teachers; or will do so before the next following examination.

SUPPLEMENTAL REGULATIONS.

(a.) A normal college must have adequate accommodation in dormitories, refectory and lecture or class-rooms for at least 50 students.

(b.) The manager or correspondent of a training college must be either a clergyman or other person of good position in society.

(c.) The report upon an application for aid to a training college must be made by one of the head inspectors.

(d.) Each training college will be placed under the charge of a head inspector.

(e.) The accounts of a college must, at all times, be regularly posted up, and ready for the inspection of the financial assistant secretary.

(f.) At the end of the first year of residence the students, in addition to extra papers upon the art of teaching and of school organisation, must pass creditably in the course prescribed for third-class teachers.

(g.) At the end of the second year of residence, the students must pass the course for second-class teachers.

(h.) The authorities of any college making application for grants, may submit, not later than the 15th of June, for the approval of the Commissioners, a list of the names of the candidate students for the entrance examination, to be held in the first week of July of this year. No application will be entertained unless all the preliminary regulations are complied with.

(i.) The session of a training college will commence in each year in the first week of September, and will terminate in the first week of the following July.

Education Office, 12 April 1883.

TRAINING SCHOOLS (IRELAND).

COPY of COMMUNICATIONS between the Irish Government and the Commissioners of National Education on the subject of TRAINING SCHOOLS in Ireland.

(Mr. Trevelyan.)

Ordered, by the House of Commons, to be Printed,
25 April 1883.

[Price 1d.]

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